

most heartily co-operate with the council. And let me make haste. Time presses. Let not evil passions get the start of us. Advise, decide, and make immediate application to relieve the prevailing distress.

The capital is just entering upon another agitating electoral campaign. A defective provision of the law on elections permits the same individual to be a candidate in several departments at the same time, while perhaps his residence is not in either. If elected in several he chooses which he will represent, and new elections are ordered for the others. The result is perpetual double elections, which agitate the country and consume the time of citizens. Many of the departments are crying loudly against centralization, which keeps all France in subjection to the capital. One of the surest means of breaking down this republican system would be to adopt the rule that Representatives must reside in the departments which they represent. M. Vidal, a socialist and ultra of the deepest tint, was elected last month both in Paris and the department of the Lower Rhine. He exercised his option for the latter. New elections are ordered for the 25th instant, and parties are marshalling their forces for the struggle. The Red Republicans have not yet announced their candidate. Primary assemblies are now electing delegates to form a grand committee. This committee is charged to call before it and examine all the candidates, and, after due consideration, it nominates one for whom the people vote with great unanimity. Girardin, the unprincipled but talented editor of *La Presse*, has for the last two years been offering himself by turns to all parties in all the departments. All covet his support and fear his opposition; but none dare to make him their representative, for fear of being betrayed. At the present moment he is ultra-republican and socialist, and, as such, the nomination. He failed last month, and is almost certainly destined to fail again. As for the honest, moderate Republicans, there is no such party in France. Individuals there are, but they have not the influence or the numbers necessary to form a party. Most of the *Amis de la Constitution* have already in despair joined the Socialists. As for the reactionist parties, their divisions are about to make certain another triumph of the ultras. The Legitimists declare that they will not vote for Fer. Foy, whom the reactionist committee has nominated for the coming election, he having been highest on their list which was beaten by the Socialists last month. Foy is a son of the distinguished liberal, Gen. Foy, who made so enlightened and firm opposition to reactionist measures under the Restoration. The very name of Foy is held in abhorrence by the Legitimists. It is his name only which has recommended to the Orleansist the candidate of to-day. He is the son of his father. That sufficed to ensure him support. Unless, which is hardly to be anticipated, a great many of the ninety-three thousands who abstained last month, turn out on the 28th and prove to be Orleansists, the Socialists will triumph again in Paris. I expect it. And I expect, as the consequence, such increased audacity on the one side, and rigor of illegal compression on the other, as will hasten a violent crisis long before the legal term for the trial of the actual constitution shall have arrived.

In view of the unanimous opposition of the press, Government has resolved not to urge before the Assembly, until after the elections, the iniquitous and unnecessary gag-law, re-establishing the stamp-tax, and increasing the security deposits required from newspapers. It is more than probable that the bill will be withdrawn; if not, that the Assembly will reject it. A vote in the Assembly of more than three hundred seems already assured against the bill. I think, however, the bill for the absolute interdiction, during another year, of all popular meetings for the discussion of politics will, in face of the express constitutional guaranty, pass into law.

The Assembly is engaged in discussing an important question, viz: Whether the completion of the railroad connecting Paris with the Mediterranean shall be undertaken by the State or left to individual enterprises and capital. I fear that is not the comprehension and adoption of a sound principle, so much as financial embarrassment, which has induced Government to recommend in this instance the latter plan. If the State executes the work, an important loan must be resorted to. Under other circumstances, centralization, which is the rule of this, as of all despotic Governments, would dictate State monopoly. A vote of the Assembly, 443 against 205, decided day before yesterday against it. Inconsistently enough the Democrats voted in the minority. Lamartine has spoken upon the question, and he received, a very rare occurrence of late, the frequent applause of the majority. And he deserved it. His remarks were distinguished by sound views and strong argument ably put.

By the way, he has just obtained another triumph more in his line, and which he will find none disposed to contest. A new tragedy by his pen, *Toussaint Louverture*, in five acts and in verse, is nightly attracting crowds to the theatre *Porte St. Martin*. It is gotten up with great effect and at enormous expense. There is one singular novelty accompanying this performance. It is not till the 3d act, when the scene passes in the French camp, that a white man appears upon the stage. An acclaim which has called to mind the shouts of February 48 at the *Hôtel de Ville*, hailed the name of Lamartine the evening when it was first played.

The Madrid papers deny that the Count de Mirasol is authorized, under any circumstances, to treat for the transfer of Cuba to the United States, and, on the contrary, declare that the Spanish Government is resolved to oppose to the last extremity all foreign aggression and internal conspiracy, having for its object the disjunction of Cuba from the mother land. You will probably have in Washington by this time this letter reaches you, Mr. Arthur Dillon, appointed French Consul for San Francisco, California. He bears despatches to the French Ministry, touching the custom house difficulties which have lately arisen in California.

Yours, &c.

TO THE EDITORS.

GADSDEN'S HOTEL.
Washington, April 20, 1850.
Messrs. GALE & SEAYOR: I received quite recently a letter from a friend of mine containing the following extract:—
"I have read Mr. Webster's great speech on the slavery question, am satisfied with it, and tender him ten thousand thanks for its utterance. All who are willing to do justly will subscribe to it heartily. It is right as between the North and the South; it is the work of a statesman, and not of a politician. There is a spirit of magnanimity and truthfulness prevailing in it from end to end. The country should listen to and obey this glorious speech. May all men everywhere read it and inwardly digest it. The judicious and patriotic think more highly of Mr. Webster than ever."

The author, a gentleman of high standing in the State of Maine, connected with no political party, whose opinions on national matters always command respect, has expressed the sentiments of the judicious and patriotic citizens of the Republic, and we feel assured they will sustain Mr. Webster in his courageous and patriotic efforts to settle, in a constitutional manner, the present excitement. This is not the time for ultraism on either side of North or South; not the time for one-sided enthusiasts to usurp the places of our great statesmen; not the time when local interests and narrow prejudices should triumph over a national patriotism and the interests of the empire.

We have no sympathy with those who write letters from this city impugning the motives of Mr. Webster. In all that he has ever said there cannot be found an unprincipled thought; always grand, national, and consistent in his views of public policy, he stands now where he has always stood, where he will always stand, by the Constitution and the Laws. B.

FROM ST. DOMINGO.—Advice from the Capital of the Dominican Republic are to April 14th, brought to New York by the schooner Cabot. Tranquility prevailed, though apprehensions of further invasion from the blacks were sufficiently prevalent to interfere with commercial activity.

The U. S. steamer *Vixen* arrived at the city of St. Domingo on the 28th of March, and when the Cabot sailed was expected to leave for Washington in a few days, having Mr. GREEN, the American Chargé, on board. This gentleman brings home an air of solid mahogany and elaborately carved, a present to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore from the Archbishop of the same church at St. Domingo. It is said to weigh about ten tons, and is 44 by 26 feet in size.

A Castilian family had presented to Dr. BALL, surgeon of the Vixen, a fine Magdalen, said to be painted by Murillo, as an acknowledgment of surgical skill and attention to many of the people at various ports which the Vixen had visited.

"Why is a certain tree called a weeping willow?" asked a schoolmaster, addressing one of his pupils. "Because you take sticks from it to whip the boys."

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1850.

We do not remember that the career of any Attorney General of the United States has been more brilliant, or redounded more to the solid advantage of his country, than that of Mr. JOHNSON during the period he has been in office. This remark was made to us by a friend, after the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in a case which was argued on the part of the Government by Mr. JOHNSON, with eminent ability, during the present term of the Court. It was a case to test the validity of titles to an immense number of acres of land in the State of Louisiana, claimed under the old Spanish grants. The decision by the courts below had been against the United States, and his powerful argument was followed by a reversal of that decision. In this case, our friend observed to us that the Government had been saved at least three millions of dollars.

But Mr. JOHNSON's greatest professional triumph during the term came off yesterday, in the unanimous decision by the Supreme Court in the celebrated case of *Fleming & Marshall vs. Page*, Collector of the United States. This case involved the great question of the legality of the collection of duties in Mexico before the treaty of peace, and the sum depending on it is said to have amounted to about seven millions of dollars. This case originated in Pennsylvania, and during the last summer, when a decision involving such momentous consequences to the United States had been made against the Government by the court below, where it had been tried by the former District Attorney, Mr. JOHNSON was directed by the President to proceed to Philadelphia and move the court for a new trial, with a view to bring the great questions before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. JOHNSON proceeded in obedience to the direction, and the public may remember the success of his admirable effort in that city to bring the case under review. The Court below had been unanimous against the Government. During the present term the case was argued before all the Judges of the Supreme Court by Messrs. McALL and WEBSTER for the claimants, and by Mr. JOHNSON for the Government. The unanimous opinion of the Court was yesterday given by Chief Justice TANEY in favor of the United States, reversing the judgment below. A friend who heard Mr. JOHNSON's argument for the Government describes it as having been unsurpassed for ability, and that Mr. Justice GRIER, who delivered the judgment below, declared that he himself had been convinced, and now concurred in the opinion of the Court. The Attorney General, having in these two cases secured some ten millions of dollars to the country, has, we understand, not received one dollar beyond his regular salary of \$4,500, for all the expense he has incurred and for all the labor and distinguished talent he has exhibited. Indeed, we have good reason to know that before he left Washington to attend the trial in Philadelphia, it was proposed to him that although the Government could not pay him such a fee as his services might deserve he not an officer of the Government, yet the usage had been in several instances to allow the Attorney General his expenses and some reasonable compensation for extraordinary labor and responsibility incurred. Mr. JOHNSON respectfully declined the proposition, saying that while he had the honor to hold the commission of the President he would perform the whole duty without any additional compensation beyond the salary, however inadequate that might be.

Let our readers imagine what would probably have been his compensation for such services, attended by such results, had he been only a private citizen.

We have indulged in this strain of reflection the more, because this is the very officer of the Government who has been charged, by the spirit of faction, with having allowed interest on a few claims against the Government in some three or four cases where his opinion was demanded. Let that public officer who has saved as much to the public treasury as the Attorney General hereafter throw the first stone.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.
By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
NATHAN HANTCH, to be Deputy Postmaster at Carlisle, in the State of Pennsylvania.

CONNECTICUT.
The Legislature of this State assembled at New Haven on the 1st instant. SAMUEL INGHAM (Dem.) was chosen President pro tem. of the Senate, by fifteen out of twenty votes.

The House of Representatives failed to organize on the first day. Fourteen unsuccessful ballottings for a Speaker were had, of which the following is a specimen:

For James T. Pratt, Dem. 104
For Henry Dutton, Whig. 94
For John Hooker, Free-Soil. 18
For O. S. Seymour. 3

On the second day Mr. O. S. SEYMOUR was elected Speaker by a majority of one vote. The Legislature, in joint convention, then proceeded to the election of State Officers; when THOMAS H. SEYMOUR was chosen Governor, receiving 122 votes to 115 against him, and CHARLES H. POND Lieutenant Governor, by 124 to 105. These gentlemen were the Democratic candidates for their respective offices at the late election.

We regret to learn that Mr. Senator BERRIEN is detained at his home in this city by the serious illness of an interesting son. It is hoped, however, that the improved state of his son's health within the past few days will enable him to return to his seat at Washington by the end of the week.—*Savannah Rep. of Tuesday.*

The United States frigate *Raritan* has been withdrawn from the Home Squadron, to be fitted for foreign service; and the flag of Commodore PARKER has been temporarily transferred to the sloop of war *Albatross*.

It is understood that one of the new war steamers, shortly to be put in commission, will be assigned as Commodore PARKER's flag ship.

NAVY.—That portion of the United States squadron in the Mediterranean, consisting of the *Independence* frigate, bearing the flag of Commodore CHARLES W. MORRIS; the *St. Lawrence*, Captain PARLEY; the *Cumberland*, Capt. LATIMER; and the *Mississippi* steam frigate, Capt. LONO, lay at anchor in the Bay of Naples, April 4th; but would shortly proceed to Marsailles, where it was expected to remain some time.

At last accounts the frigate *Constitution*, Capt. CONVERSE, was at Toulon; and the corvette *Jamestown*, Captain S. MERRICK, en route to Gibraltar and the United States.

IMPORTANT FROM NEW MEXICO.

The St. Louis Republican of the 24th ultimo (received last night) contains the following interesting intelligence, communicated to that paper by Mr. WILLIAM C. SKINNER, for several years past a citizen of New Mexico, and who had been but little more than a month from Santa Fe. We give the statement just as we find it in the Republican, with the single remark that we shall, no doubt soon receive authentic information concerning these proceedings.

FROM THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLICAN OF APRIL 24.
A few days prior to the departure of Mr. Skinner, an express had been received in Santa Fe by Governor Munroe, which brought a communication to that officer from Major Neighbors, Texas Commissioner, who was then at the military post in the neighborhood of El Paso. The purport of the communication is understood to have been merely an appraisal of the fact to Colonel Munroe, that he, Major Neighbors, as commissioner on the part of the State of Texas, with plenary powers to establish the jurisdiction of his Government over New Mexico, had arrived in the Territory for the purpose of carrying out the object of his commission, &c., and trusting that Col. Munroe, Civil and Military Governor of New Mexico, would co-operate with him, and lend him that aid which might be found necessary in the establishment of the Texas laws, and the fulfillment of the instructions given to him by the Executive and Legislature of his State.

The Sub-Prefect at Fronteras (in the immediate neighborhood of the military post near El Paso, where a strong Texas influence is supposed to govern) had resigned his jurisdiction to the Texas Commissioner, thus abandoning to that State all territory from Don Ana (seventy miles north of El Paso) to the Presidio of San Eleazar, a line bordering upon the Rio Grande, some 110 miles in length. Mr. White, the Sub-Prefect of that portion of the territory, may be able to excuse himself to his Government for thus turning over one of the fairest portions of New Mexico, with its population, to a Government the very mention of which (Texans) is full of abhorrence and a never-to-be-uprooted repugnance to a New Mexican.

The reception of intelligence at Santa Fe that Major Neighbors had arrived in the Territory for the establishment of Texas jurisdiction, created an intense excitement in that city, where the active, stirring portion of the community, in all political matters, are almost exclusively Americans. Agitation upon the subject, it is said by our informant, is confined to Santa Fe, in which place, as part of the Territory, may alone be said to exist a difference of opinion relative to the Texas claim, which is ever a creature, to a greater or less degree, of excitement; for, throughout the entire length and breadth of the land, wherever a native Mexican is to be found, or an American whose feelings have not been warped by personal malice against the present gentlemen who occupy the different civil offices, there exists but one sentiment—that of deep chagrin that the Governor of New Mexico, the civil and military commandant, Colonel Munroe, should have found himself so hampered by his instructions that he could not have taken a stand such as his position led the people over whom he holds rule to believe he would take in this matter, and a determined spirit of resistance, even to the death, against the unjust usurpation of Texas to the soil of New Mexico.

Public meetings were being called throughout the Territory for the adoption of measures to resist the action of Texas, at the time Mr. Skinner left Santa Fe. Two meetings had already been held in Santa Fe—the only place where a division of opinion is found—relative to the proper course to be pursued in the emergency; but, up to the time of leaving, no definite action had been had, the meeting having been adjourned, under a highly excited state of feeling, for the ensuing evening, (the 20th March). The next arrival will bring us further, and doubtless deeply interesting news, relative to this matter, from New Mexico.

Colonel Munroe had issued the following order to the commandants of the different military posts in the Territory:

HEADQUARTERS 9TH MILITARY DEPARTMENT,
Santa Fe, (N. M.) March 12, 1850.
SIR: Having been duly notified by Major Robert S. Neighbors, of his arrival as a Commissioner of the State of Texas, for the purpose of establishing the civil jurisdiction of the State over this Territory, your command will observe a rigid non-interference with him in the exercise of his functions, and equally avoid coming in conflict with the judicial authorities created by that State.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN MUNROE, Bvt. Col. U. S. A.,
Commanding 9th Department.

So that it will readily be perceived that New Mexico must look alone to herself for the means to resist the usurpation of her old enemy.

Mr. Skinner expresses it as his belief, founded upon an intimate knowledge of the Mexican population of New Mexico, that armed resistance will be made, if necessary, to any attempt at the extension over their territory of Texas law, and that many American residents, who justly regard the attempt of Texas as an assumption of power, will be found openly opposed, and to any extent, in resisting an authority which they cannot recognize.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TUESDAY, APRIL 30.
MR. WILSON, of Natick, moves to strike out the conclusion of the report, discharging the Committee on the Judiciary from the further consideration of the petition of Henry Allen and others, and to insert the following, viz:

Whereas the people of Massachusetts have, in every variety of form, solemnly, deliberately, and repeatedly declared their unalterable purpose to prohibit the extension of slavery, by the application of the principles of the ordinance of 1787 to the Territories; and
Whereas the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER, one of the Senators of this Commonwealth in the Congress of the United States, recently delivered in a speech before the Senate that "if a resolution or a law were before the Senate to provide a Territorial Government for New Mexico, with a provision for the prohibition of slavery, he would not vote for it," that "such a provision was useless, senseless, and nugatory;" and

Whereas a bill is now pending before the Senate of the United States, with some amendments, to wit, for the return of fugitive slaves, by judges, magistrates, or collectors, that any judge, commissioner, clerk, postmaster, or collector, not only residing, but merely being in the State where a seizure is made, may, on proof to his individual satisfaction, without trial by jury, give a certificate, which shall be a sufficient warrant for taking and removing any person, white or black, who may be seized as a fugitive slave; and in such cases the affidavit of the claimant is admitted, but the testimony of the person claimed as a slave is expressly excluded; and the said bill, with its amendments, provides a fine of \$1,000 for aiding and abetting the escape of a fugitive slave, and imprisonment of twelve months for harboring and concealing such person; and whereas the Hon. Daniel Webster has avowed in his speech his intention to support this odious bill and its amendments, "with all its provisions, to the fullest extent;" therefore,

Resolved, That the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER is hereby respectfully, but earnestly requested to oppose "at all times, under all circumstances, even against all inducements, against all compromises," the organization of any Territorial Government, without an express provision forever excluding slavery therefrom.

Resolved, That the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER is hereby respectfully, but earnestly requested, to "use the first, the last, and every occasion," to defeat the enactment of the bill now before the Senate for the capture of fugitive slaves.

Resolved, That his Excellency, the Governor be requested to forward to the Hon. Daniel Webster a copy of these resolutions.

The proposed amendment was rejected, by 122 votes to 47.

And the original report was accepted; a motion to lay it on the table, to avoid a decision upon it, having been rejected by 139 votes to 47.

FIRE AT GOSPORT, (VA.)—On Wednesday afternoon, as we learn from the *Parhamouth "Pilot,"* a very destructive fire occurred at Gosport, which consumed, in all, twenty-nine houses, besides damaging several others. It originated between the Foundry and Navy Yard, at about 4 o'clock, and so rapid were the flames, owing to the height of the wind, that in a very few minutes both sides of the street were completely enveloped in one vast sheet of fire. The loss is estimated at \$60,000. The names of some of the owners are: John G. Hatton, S. Wats, George Marshall, Dr. Cooke, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Swift, Mrs. Butters, John Benson, Mr. Pennington, and the Edwards estate.

MR. WEBSTER'S RECEPTION AT BOSTON.

The brief Speech of Mr. WEBSTER at Boston, in reply to the remarks of welcome made by Mr. BENJ. R. CURTIS in behalf of a large number of its assembled citizens, is reported so much better in the Boston papers than the Telegraph account which we published two days ago, as to leave no room for doubt that the republication of this more full and accurate version will be acceptable to all our readers. We therefore copy it as it appears in the Boston Daily Advertiser. It is not at all probable, however, in view of what is said in the Boston papers of the difficulty of reporting this speech, under the peculiar circumstances of its delivery, that this version of it is entirely free from imperfection.

The "Atlas" states that for an hour or more prior to the time Mr. WEBSTER was expected, the space in front of the Revere Hotel began to be filled, and at twenty minutes past five the gathering was very numerous. The windows of the Revere House were occupied with ladies, and every available situation, from which a sight of the proceedings could be had, was taken possession of; even the trees in front of the church close by had to bear their burden of spectators. As the carriage containing Mr. Webster and his friends drove up in front of the hotel, the crowd cheered repeatedly; and a band of music stationed on the balcony struck up a welcome air.

BENJAMIN R. CURTIS, Esq., immediately on the carriage coming to a halt, ascended a temporary rostrum, and, in an address of much eloquence of expression, welcomed Mr. Webster to the soil of Massachusetts. The speaker enumerated many of the more prominent services rendered by the honorable Senator to his State and the country at large, which had justly earned the gratitude of his constituents, and that of the whole nation; and wound up by an expression of the fullest reliance upon the wisdom which had heretofore guided, and would in future direct, the public conduct of Mr. Webster. The remarks of Mr. Curtis were received with the cheers of the people.

Upon the close of this address, Mr. WEBSTER arose in the carriage, and was received with loud cheering. After the noise had in some measure subsided, he proceeded to say that it was with great pleasure that he met so large an assemblage of his friends at a time when his private affairs had called him from the seat of government to his own home.

As you have said, sir (said he), the duties of the winter in the public councils of the country have not been arduous, I am sorry to say that these arduous duties are not done with. I am sorry to say that the public affairs of the country have not yet made so much progress towards satisfactory adjustment, as to remove all the anxiety which has been felt about the adjustment of the subjects under discussion. But I feel authorized to say that there is now reason to hope—reason to expect—that further reflection, that a generous comparison of various wishes where we disagree, will bring about that improved state of public feeling, in the reproduction of which all our expectations of useful legislation of public duty, all our expectations of useful legislation, must depend.

I cannot but feel, sir, that I stand in the presence of my friends. I must regard this gathering as the personal tribute of your welcome to me. You do not welcome the politician, and this is not an opportunity for discussing those questions which now agitate the community and the Government—questions which can leave little repose in the mind of any intelligent man, till he can see some probability that from their discussion an adjustment may come in favor of the prosperity, peace, happiness, and continued union of the country. (Cheers.)

Gentlemen, I have felt it my duty, on a late occasion, to make an effort to bring about some amelioration of that excited feeling on this subject which pervades the people of the country every where—North and South: to make an effort also to restore the Government to its proper capacity for discharging the proper business of the country. (Cheers.) For now, let me say, it is unable to discharge that business. That it may regain that capacity, there is a necessity for effort both in Congress and out of Congress. Neither you nor I shall see the legislation of the country proceed in the old harmonious way, until the discussions in Congress and out of Congress upon the subject to which you have alluded, shall be in some way suppressed. Take that truth home with you; and take it as truth. Until something can be done to lay the feeling now separating men and different sections, there can be no useful and satisfactory legislation in the two houses of Congress.

Mr. Curtis, and gentlemen, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has done me the honor to place me as her representative—as one of her representatives—in Congress. I have believed that the would approve, in me, any honest, cautious, and sincere effort to allay the discussion which we see among the people of the country, and to restore Congress to its constitutional capacity for action. I have believed that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would support her representatives in that course. I have believed that a general sentiment of the whole country would favor and encourage their efforts in it; and I have the satisfaction now to believe that in that belief I shall not be disappointed. (Cheers.) However that may be, let that effort I shall repeat. (Renewed cheering.) In that course of pacification I shall persevere, regardless of all personal consequences. (Three cheers.) I shall minister to no local prejudices. I shall support no agitators having their foundations in unreal ghastly abstractions. (Laughter and cheers.) I shall say nothing which may foster the unkind passions, separating the North from the South. May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth before it may utter any sentiment which shall incite the agitation in the public mind on such a subject. (Cheers.)

Sir, I have said that this is not an occasion for political discussion. I confess that if the time and circumstances gave an opportunity, I should not be indisposed to address the people of Massachusetts directly upon the duty which the present exigency of affairs has devolved upon her—this great and glorious Commonwealth! Upon the duty to at least which it devolves upon us, who represent her in the National Legislature. This will not be such an opportunity. I shall have an occasion, in my seat in the Senate, to give my opinions upon some topics of an interesting character—topics, in regard to some of which there exists both misstatement and misapprehension; the greatest misstatement, the greatest misapprehension, especially so far as I am concerned. I may simply mention one of these. It is the question respecting the delivery of fugitives from service. With regard to that question, there exist the greatest prejudices; the greatest misapprehensions. I do not wonder at these misapprehensions. I am well aware that this is a topic which must excite prejudice. I can very well feel what the prejudices are which it must very naturally bring up in the minds of the good people of this Commonwealth. But, Mr. Curtis and gentlemen, there are in regard to that topic duties absolutely incumbent on the Commonwealth; duties imposed by the Constitution; absolutely incumbent on every person who holds office in Massachusetts under her own constitution and laws, or under those of the nation. She is bound and those persons are bound to the discharge of a duty—of a disagreeable duty. We call upon her to discharge that duty as an affair of high morals and high principles. We ask her to resolve upon the performance of duty, though it be a disagreeable duty. Any man can perform an agreeable duty—it is not every man who can perform a disagreeable duty. Any man can do what is altogether pleasant. The question now is, whether Massachusetts—whether the old State of Massachusetts—improved by two centuries of civilization—renewed for her intellectual character—mightily in her moral power—conspicuous before the world—a leading State in this country ever since it was a Union—the question is, whether Massachusetts will shrink from or will come up to a fair and reasonable and moderate performance (and no more than a fair and reasonable and moderate performance) of her sworn obligations. I think she will. (Cheers.)

Sir, the question is, whether Massachusetts will stand to the truth, against temptation! Whether she will be just, against temptation! Whether she will defend herself against her own prejudices! She has conquered every thing else in her time; she has conquered this ocean which washes her shore; she has conquered her own sterile soil; she has conquered her stern and inflexible climate; she has fought her way to the universal respect of the world; she has conquered everybody's prejudices but her own. The question now is, whether she will conquer her own prejudices! I shall return to the Senate, to put that question to her, in the presence of that common mother, who shall deal in the presence of (Cheers.) In the mean time, let me repeat that I tread no step backwards. (Cheers.) I am devoted to the restoration of peace, harmony, and concord out of Congress, and such a degree of mutual co-operation in Congress as may enable it to carry on once more the legitimate business of the Government.

The Union for the preservation of which I strive, the Union of States for which I strive, is not merely a union of law, of constitution, of compact, but, while it is that, it is a Union of brotherly regard, of fraternal feeling throughout the whole country. I do not wish that any portion of the people of this country should feel held together only by the bonds of a legal co-operation—bonds which some of them may think restrain their limbs, cramp their affections, gall and wound them. I wish, on the contrary, that they shall be bound together by those unseem, soft, easy sitting chains that result from generous affections, and from a sense of common interest and common pride. In short, fellow-citizens, my desire is, and my labor is, to see that state of things produced in which, filling all bosoms with gratitude, all hearts with joy, illuminating all faces, spreading through all ranks of people, whether rich or poor, whether North, South, East or West, there shall exist the calm of all our suffering; the great solace of all our political calamities; the great security of every thing prosperous, and great, and glorious in the future; and that is, THE UNITED LOVE OF A UNITED GOVERNMENT.

In the midst of the cheering which followed the speech, several bouquets of flowers were thrown into the carriage in which Mr. Webster sat, from the front windows of the Revere House, which were crowded by ladies. Mr. Webster acknowledged these by rising and bowing. The band struck up again, and the carriage passed on, amid the renewed cheers of the assembly.

After he entered the House, many ladies and gentlemen followed him, and for a long time he continued to receive in one of the large drawing rooms such visitors as were introduced to him.

way to the universal respect of the world; she has conquered everybody's prejudices but her own. The question now is, whether she will conquer her own prejudices! I shall return to the Senate, to put that question to her, in the presence of that common mother, who shall deal in the presence of (Cheers.) In the mean time, let me repeat that I tread no step backwards. (Cheers.) I am devoted to the restoration of peace, harmony, and concord out of Congress, and such a degree of mutual co-operation in Congress as may enable it to carry on once more the legitimate business of the Government.

The Union for the preservation of which I strive, the Union of States for which I strive, is not merely a union of law, of constitution, of compact, but, while it is that, it is a Union of brotherly regard, of fraternal feeling throughout the whole country. I do not wish that any portion of the people of this country should feel held together only by the bonds of a legal co-operation—bonds which some of them may think restrain their limbs, cramp their affections, gall and wound them. I wish, on the contrary, that they shall be bound together by those unseem, soft, easy sitting chains that result from generous affections, and from a sense of common interest and common pride. In short, fellow-citizens, my desire is, and my labor is, to see that state of things produced in which, filling all bosoms with gratitude, all hearts with joy, illuminating all faces, spreading through all ranks of people, whether rich or poor, whether North, South, East or West, there shall exist the calm of all our suffering; the great solace of all our political calamities; the great security of every thing prosperous, and great, and glorious in the future; and that is, THE UNITED LOVE OF A UNITED GOVERNMENT.

In the midst of the cheering which followed the speech, several bouquets of flowers were thrown into the carriage in which Mr. Webster sat, from the front windows of the Revere House, which were crowded by ladies. Mr. Webster acknowledged these by rising and bowing. The band struck up again, and the carriage passed on, amid the renewed cheers of the assembly.

After he entered the House, many ladies and gentlemen followed him, and for a long time he continued to receive in one of the large drawing rooms such visitors as were introduced to him.

VIRGINIA ELECTIONS.

The returns from Virginia, as far as heard from, show a net gain for the Democrats of two members, and as that party had a decided majority in the last House, they will, no doubt, have the same in the next.

A large majority has been given throughout the State, so far as heard from, in favor of the Convention to remodel the Constitution.

It gives us pleasure to learn that M. BODISCO, the esteemed Minister from Russia to the United States, who has been for some months on a visit to his own Government, has returned in the *Cambria* to resume his diplomatic functions and rejoin his family in this country.

MR. WEBSTER IN NEWBURYPORT.—The Newburyport Herald contains the following address to Mr. Webster, on the subject of his late speech, signed by three hundred and seventy inhabitants of that place:

To the Hon. Daniel Webster.
SIR: We address you, to make known the satisfaction we have derived from the perusal of the speech recently delivered by you in the Senate of the United States, on the great topic of the day.

We admire its manly temper, the liberal and conciliatory sentiments it expresses, and the unanswerable power of analysis and exposition with which it develops and maintains the true principles of the Constitution.

We honor, especially, the courageous patriotism which pervades it, recalling to a due sense of their constitutional obligations the North as well as the South. We therefore beg you to accept our heartfelt thanks for the pre-eminent service you have now again performed towards preserving and strengthening our National Union.

We honor, especially, the courage, with pride and pleasure, your friends and constituents. NEWBURYPORT, APRIL 8, 1850.

[The signatures to the document embrace the chief persons of the town for talent, intelligence, and weight of character, as well as individuals of all classes. Mr. Webster may rely upon it, that he is strong, in one part at least, of old Essex.—*Boston Courier.*]

JUDGE STORY AND THE LAW SCHOOL AT CAMBRIDGE.—The committee appointed by the board of overseers of this institution, to investigate its condition, have recommended, through their chairman, Charles Sumner, Esq., the establishment of a professorship of Commercial Law and the Law of Nations, as the most appropriate mode of testifying a proper respect for the memory of their late benefactor and fellow-laborer, Judge Story. In connection with this suggestion the committee say:

"It is well known that it was the earnest desire of Professor STORY, often expressed, in view of the increasing means of the Law School, and of the necessity of meeting the increasing demands for education in the law, that professorships of both these branches should be established. He regarded that of commercial law as most needed. His own pre-eminence in this department is shown in his works, and especially in his numerous judicial opinions. And only a few days before his death, in conversation with one of this committee, bearing that it had been proposed by some of the merchants of Boston on his resignation of the seat which he had held on the bench for thirty-four years, to cause his statue in marble to be erected, he said, 'If the merchants of Boston wish to do me honor in any way on my leaving the bench, let it not be by a statue, but by founding in the Law School a professorship of commercial law.' With these generous words, he embraced in his views, at once, his favorite law and his favorite university."

A large and valuable trade is already springing up between California and Canton. The Hon. JOHN W. DAVIS, our Commissioner to China, writes that within the space of three months eighteen vessels sailed from the port of Hong Kong alone, for California, with cargoes valued at over half a million of dollars.

The Washington Union asserts, in the most direct and positive style, that "we have been sold to the British." If the "we" is used editorially, the British will have the worst of the bargain. If it relates to the American people, the public is respectfully requested to suspend its judgment until they find out who sold them. It has been rumored that the bargain was consummated by the tariff of 1840, and Mr. Bulwer manifests a good deal of uneasiness lest the contract should now be broken. Does ex-Secretary Walker know any thing of the matter?—*N. Y. Cour. & Eng.*

The boldness of the man who would encounter the peril of the deep upon a "shingle" has become a proverb. What shall be said of the prowess of him who would dare those perils upon a log-boat? Yesterday morning, at about one o'clock, the passengers on one of the Grand street ferry-boats were startled by moans, which proceeded from near the surface of the water, and on examination it was found that a man was floating upon a log-boat. He was dressed in the uniform which is assigned for the residents of Blackwell's Island, whence he had escaped early in the evening, and, having been several hours in the water, was nearly exhausted when rescued. He was taken to Williamsburgh, where, as Blackwell's Island is not an appearance of King's county, no one felt called upon to return him to captivity.

[New York Courier.]

The New York and Boston Telegraph Company have reduced their tariff of prices more than one-half; that is, from fifty to twenty cents for ten words or less, and one or two cents, according to the distance, for each additional word.

The Rev. RUSSELL STREETER, of Portland, Maine, a Universalist preacher, preached on the 14th instant his four thousand six hundred and ninety-first sermon.

Mr. John Bird caught in his pike at the Narrows, Staten Island, a codfish weighing about sixty pounds. When cut open, there was taken out of him a large shad, one dozen large sea crabs, &c.

The *Falcon* sailed for Chagres, via Havana, from New Orleans, April 29th, with